

## REMARKS

Examiner Pompey is thanked for the thorough examination of the subject Patent Application. The Claims have been carefully reviewed and are considered to be in condition for allowance.

5 Reconsideration of the rejection under 35 USC §103(a) of Claims 23-33 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,218,720 (Gardner et al.) in light of the following argument. The applicants are submitting the attached Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131, to swear behind the reference of Gardner et al., which establishes invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to the effective date of  
10 the reference (Gardner et al.). The applicants declare that the claimed invention was conceived, and entered the United States, prior to the effective date of U.S. Patent 6,218,720 of October 21, 1998.

Allowance of all Claims is requested.

It is requested that should the Examiner Pompey not find that the Claims  
15 are now allowable, that the undersigned be called at (845) 452-5863 to overcome any problems preventing allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephen B. Ackerman, Reg. No. 37,761

Attachment: